



OLD CARS AND NEW LAWS

PLUS WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

On Jan 6th, the feds released this info – “During a government shutdown, some key agency functions will be discontinued until funding is restored. Functions funded by the Highway Trust Fund will continue, while those funded by the annual appropriations will be suspended, including safety defect investigations, field crash investigations, review of consumer complaints and notification of new vehicle and equipment recalls.”

Tesla has reduced the price of their vehicles by as much as \$2,000. This is due to the ending of federal tax credits per vehicle for the first 200,000 built and sold by an electric carmaker. Tesla passed that number last year. Tesla also announced that it is developing a new model called model Y and it is to be a low priced model. Tesla did not meet its production and sales goal for 2018 and that is also one of the reasons for a new lower price vehicle. On January 18th, Tesla announced that it is cutting its work force by 7% to help improve profitability and also to make up for the reduced prices. They also announced that they are increasing their “super-charging” rates by about 33% at all “super charging” stations around the world.

A recent report says that many big companies are not buying fleets of new vehicles this year due to the revised tax codes that restrict deductions on businesses.

Most Ford police interceptor vehicles average about 17 mpg. A new hybrid model due out soon promises about 24 mpg, which will result in big savings for police budgets.

Weeks before an Ohio teenager died in a parked Honda Odyssey, federal safety regulators had received a dire warning about a possible safety defect in the latching problem with the third row seat, federal officials said they did not see a problem, so there was no investigation into the problem.

On Jan. 10th, Tesla announced that it will no longer sell the cheaper versions of the Model S sedans and SUV models that are equipped with 75 KWX batteries as of 1/13/19. They will be replaced with new model S sedans and X based models with 100 KWX batteries and the selling price will start at \$94,000 and \$97,000, but one report said it was \$75000 to \$80,000.

According to a report by the FBI, thieves stole 773,139 vehicles in the U.S. in 2017. It also stated that a combination of new technology and carless drivers help the thieves. Many drivers who use key fobs often leave them in their cars inviting thieves to take their cars. Crooks also can find your signal that throbs constantly sent from your home and relay it from your home and through an amplifying device to open and operate your car. There are several signal blocking systems available, but the cheapest is to wrap it in aluminum foil.

On January 18th, Ford announced that it is developing F-150 pickups that are electric plug-in vehicles. They also are developing electric versions of most of their sport vehicles. No date on when the vehicles will be available.

GM had run ads about the reliability of Chevy cars, but has withdrawn the ad or modified it in some states after several complaints about the accuracy of the data.

The following state bills are not laws at this time. They have recently been introduced, and are currently under consideration by the respective legislatures.

ALABAMA

A judge has ruled that Tuscaloosa police violated the constitution by routinely impounding and searching the vehicle of every driver they arrest.

ARIZONA

Kroger has finally delivered on its promise to deliver groceries to your door without a delivery person. Through a partnership with startup company Nuro, Kroger will deliver groceries to customers in Scottsdale, Az. through driverless vehicles called Rt's starting December 2018. The RT will travel on public roads and only transport goods. Customers can pay a \$5.95 flat rate for same-day or next day delivery. Kroger may expand the service to other areas at a later date.

The city of Flagstaff officials are using cellphone location data to better understand traffic. The city will use the anonymous data to map and model traffic patterns in the county. The data is gathered from smartphone applications that use location services. The company supplying the data is San Francisco based Streetlight Data.

CALIFORNIA

Homeland Security says the California DMV did not meet the required rules for issuing REAL ID drivers licenses and ID cards. The feds require two proofs of residence address, but California only required one, saying that the address to where the items were mailed qualified as two and that the feds said it was ok. Now both sides are blaming each other for the problem and some people may have to return to the DMV to receive the correct REAL ID driver's license or REAL ID cards required by the feds in 2020.

Several new laws took effect on Jan. 1, 2019 – Non-binary may be checked for gender and X will be listed as gender on drivers licenses or ID cards, smog exemptions will now be up to 8 years, but will cost \$25 extra per year for 2 years. New DUI law mandates that repeat offenders and first time offenders whose violation resulted in an injury, must install ignition locks on their vehicles for a period ranging from 12 to 48 months.

Juvenile courts can no longer suspend, restrict or delay the issuance of a driver's license to a habitual truant or ward, but can be done by DMV. Low emission or zero emissions vehicles with the "green" sticker for carpool driving must now apply for a new "purple" sticker. Paper license plates issued by dealers will be replaced with a special dealer plate connected to DMV's data-based units until their regular plates arrive. Dealers will be liable for the return of the special plate and anyone not returning the plate faces fines.

Other laws are : speeding, 1 to 15 mph over limit costs \$250, 16 to 25 mph over limit costs \$450, rolling stop sign stops cost \$275, driving too slow on freeway and impeding traffic costs \$270, cell phone holding or using while driving (first offense) costs \$1,000 and may result in loss of license, driving with no insurance and causing an accident costs \$500. These are the maximum fine amounts but courts can levy smaller fines.

Electric scooter riders over 18 are no longer required to wear a helmet.

Tolls on the San Francisco Bay area's state owned bridges are going up by \$1 on 1/1/19.

Sacramento may allow electric scooters on its street as early as May, but there are a few details to be worked out. They may charge the scooter companies \$15 each time a scooter is left blocking a sidewalk, a fee that also applies to Jump Bikes. The city is planning on building parking stations for the shared electric devices to be funded by increasing the fees on the companies.

National Guard and Reserve Military personnel are now eligible for Veterans designation on California driver's licenses. To apply, you must contact your local county Veterans Service Officer (CVSO), not the DMV.

COLORADO

Entry fees at all Colorado state parks will increase on Jan. 1. Daily passes for vehicles, individuals and off-leash dogs will increase by \$1. The 2019 charges are up to \$10 per vehicle, depending on the park, \$4 for an individual and \$3 for off-leash dog. Annual vehicles passes are going from \$70 to \$80.

HAWAII

A steep trail to the Kalaupapa leprosy settlement has been closed indefinitely after a landslide took out a bridge along one of the switchbacks.

The Hawaiian monarchy's palace will start closing earlier in February to cut down on vandalism and vagrancy

ILLINOIS

The youngest children (age not specified) in cars, will be required to ride in a rear facing seats plus another 252 state laws.

A report by the ACLU says African-Americans and Hispanic motorists are more likely than other races to be stopped and searched for routine traffic violations. The report did not say if it was just Illinois or nation-wide.

INDIANA

Elkhart County which has a large Amish population is moving ahead with plans to add lanes along local roads just for horse-drawn buggies.

KENTUCKY

The Lexington Parking Authority said it had collected three tons of food this year by allowing \$10,000 parking and other citations to be paid by food. The program allowed people to bring in 10 cans in exchange of \$15 off a parking citation. The program has produced thousands of meals for more than 2,000 homes that rely on the Gods Pantry Food Bank.

The State Dept. of Tourism has a new visitor's guide available for 2019.

MICHIGAN

A bill that would allow "military vehicles" to be reclassified as historical vehicles and use historical plates has been vetoed by the Gov.

MINNESOTA

Bad way to start the day! The new mayor of Rice was arrested for DUI as he prepared to drive an empty school bus.

NEBRASKA

Design work is finished for an 11-mile, four lane expressway south of Lincoln, that's designed to keep truck traffic away from a heavily traveled highway.

Commuters in Omaha should be prepared to say goodbye to the "20 minute city" as the area's metropolitan population continues to grow. A recent survey shows that Douglas County's average commute time has increased and continues to grow.

NEVADA

Off-road enthusiasts are suing the U.S. Forest Service over the bistate grouse in Nevada and California, arguing that a protection program plan enacted this year could increase fire danger across rangeland habitat of the bird.

Fatalities on state highways reached a 10-year high in 2018. Dept. of Public Safety data shows that 331 people died in 301 crashes, three quarters of them in Clark County.

NEW MEXICO

A master plan that charts out the next steps for developing a 500-mile trail along the Rio Grande from one end of the state to the other end has been adopted.

The Historic Taos Inn is changing ownership. It opened in 1936 as the Hotel Martin and is a historic site on old Route 66.

The state's Dept. of Transportation bike plan highlights ways in which the state can improve safety along state-maintained roads.

NEW YORK

All Aboard. Police in New York City are searching for a joyrider who sneaked off with an empty bus and took it for an hours-long joyride.

NORTH CAROLINA

Buncombe County offered an amnesty Day on Jan 25th in the county for people with traffic citations to see if there case could be reset for a hearing or possibly be dismissed.

A new bridge linking the Outer-Banks to Nags Head is scheduled to open in March.

NORTH DAKOTA

A state lawmaker wants to charge owners of electric and hybrid vehicles an annual fee to help offset lost motor fuel taxes that fund roadwork.

State rep Daniel Johnson is sponsoring a bill that would make it legal for people to leave their vehicles running unattended, amending a statute that has been on the books since the 1940's and no one can remember it being enforced.

OREGON

The city of Portland is recommending that electric scooters be allowed to return this spring, after a trial period last year.

RHODE ISLAND

The company that runs the year-round ferry to Block Island says it wants state approval to buy a boat that will carry twice as many passengers.

The city of Pawtucket is adopting traffic cameras to crack down on speeding. Mayor Grebien says the effort aims to address problem speeding in school zones, as police department resources are limited.

SOUTH CAROLINA

The Columbia City Council has banned electric scooters for a year while the city studies the operation of companies providing the service.

UTAH

The state is illegally sharing personal data from driver's licenses, a state audit says.

WASHINGTON

A major thoroughfare for commuters along downtown Seattle's waterfront shut down for good on January 11th and officials say it will be one of the most painful traffic periods in the city's history.

WEST VIRGINIA

Delegate Gary Howell has introduced a bill that would make it illegal to drive in the left lane of a multilane highway while impeding other traffic.

Drivers who frequently use the East Virginia Turnpike, will have a little extra time to enroll in the state's E-Z Pass discount program. The Parkways Authority has extended the deadline until Jan. 11th.

WHAATSUUP HERE AND THERE

Did you buy one??? Lincoln has a new Continental Coach Edition Sedan which was displayed at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit and within 48 hours, all 80 limited editions were sold. It is a “low cost” car that sells for \$96,395 and can reach \$103,635 and maybe \$110,000. There is a waiting list for the vehicle. Buyers at the show will be notified about their vehicle and receive them in the summer.

GM introduced a new small pickup truck and said that it would get great mileage, but when tested by a consumer group, it got less mpg than the full size Chevy pickup with the big motor.

The 1949 Chrysler was the first car to have a standard key-start system.

The following cars will be gone by the end of 2019. The Ford Focus, Taurus, Ford C-Max, Chevy Impala, Cruze, Volt, Hyundai Azera, VW Beetle, VW Touareg, Honda CRZ, Toyota Prius V, Nissan Jukebox, Cadillac ATS, Cadillac CT6 and the Cadillac XTS.

Some automakers are using old model names on new models. Some of these are: Ford Ranger, Ford Bronco, Toyota Supra, Honda Passport SUV, Jeep Gladiator and the Chevy Trailblazer.

Never fear for your beer! The latest reports show that there are over 7,000 breweries in the U.S and does not include the small local breweries, but beer consumption is down.

In 1885 the first gasoline powered car crashed into a wall, no tow trucks were available then, so Driver Karl Benz, got out and pushed back to the road. In 1916, Ernest Holmes, a former carpet layer, opened an auto repair shop in Chattanooga, Tenn. He saw an industry wide need to get customers inoperative cars to repair shops, so he built the first commercial tow truck. He patented a crane design that fit onto used luxury vehicles such as Packard and Cadillacs and thus the wrecker was born. In 1930, the hand cranked gave way to powered models. There is a tow truck museum in Chattanooga today. AAA says that it has answered over 29,000,000 roadside assistant calls but did not say in what time period.

Axalta color marketing company says the new car color of the year (2019) will be Sahara bronze as automakers move away from black, white, silver and gray shades. Axalta is the largest supplier of automotive paint. Axalta was Du Pont's paint group before it was spun off in 2013.

A company called “Door Dash” is launching a new food delivery system using driverless Chevy Volt cars in the San Francisco area. No information is available at this time.

Move and make money!! Vermont is hoping to attract new residents to boost its population and workforce by paying people to relocate there. The state is accepting applications for the program, which pays people who work remotely for an out-of-state to move to Vermont.

It will cost you to leave. Japan has instituted a new tax on international tourists and it will cost \$9 to leave Japan. Airlines and cruise lines must collect the tax from all

passengers. There are a few exceptions such as ship and aircraft crews, military personnel and a few other reasons.

GM is accepting preorders on the new 2019 Cadillac C16 V due out soon. The cost starts at \$89,785.



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